

**Washington State
Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety**
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250



March 4, 2003

John McKay
U.S. Attorney's Office
601 Union Street, Suite 5100
United States Department of Justice
Seattle, Washington 98101-3903

Subject: Proposed Pipeline Safety Trust

Dear Mr. McKay:

I am writing you on behalf of the Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety ("WCC"), which I chair. We urge you to use the \$5 million in penalty money owed to the Department of Justice by Olympic Pipeline and its partners to fund an independent, non-profit organization to advocate for improved pipeline safety. We believe the \$5 million is a minimum funding level and we would like to see more of the penalty money be allocated to the trust. Therefore, we also urge you to work with the Washington State Department of Ecology and the United States Environmental Protection Agency to increase total funding for the trust to \$8 million.

We believe that Bellingham, and communities across the country, would benefit from the creation of a permanent, adequately funded, non-profit, organization to serve as a clearinghouse for information and an impartial watchdog of government and industry on pipeline safety. The Committee commends the efforts of the parents of Wade King, Stephen Tsiornas, Liam Wood, and SAFE Bellingham for spearheading such a proposal.

To our knowledge no such organization currently exists and creating it would help meet the following important needs:

- By publicizing opportunities to provide meaningful input on pipeline safety issues, it would help sustain citizen involvement in pipeline safety in Washington and throughout the country.
- Because it would possess adequate funding, it would apply its expertise to: specific technical pipeline research when appropriate, make rulemaking comments and legislative testimony, and provide an independent review of industry and government reports and actions.

Pipeline Safety Trust

March 4, 2003

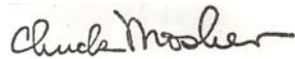
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The organization we are advocating would complement the work of our committee.

Following the tragic 1999 pipeline explosion in Bellingham, the Washington State Legislature established the WCC. It is made up of thirteen members, appointed by the Governor, representing local governments and the public, including four non-voting members representing the pipeline industry. Our charge is to advise state, federal and local government agencies and officials on matters relating to hazardous liquid and natural gas pipeline safety.

Please contact me if you have any questions at (425) 452-7810. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Mosher". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Chuck Mosher
Chairman

cc:

Tom Fitzsimmons, Director, Washington State Department of Ecology

Christine Todd Whitman, Administrator, United States Environment Protection Agency